



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2021



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CHURCH FIRE

1336 Jefferson Street (*Sacred Heart Catholic Church*)

MEMPHIS, TN - The Memphis **Fire** Department responded to an alarm of fire at 1336 Jefferson Street, Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 2:51 p.m. Upon arrival on the scene, firefighters reported fire visible from the large one story church. Rescue and Firefighting operations began immediately.

Twenty-one (21) pieces of **Fire**/Rescue/EMS equipment and approximately fifty-three (53) emergency response personnel ultimately responded to the call. Division Chief P. Dix was the commanding officer of this incident. The fire was brought under control at 3:25 p.m. One firefighter was treated and released on the scene for a minor burn to his ear. There were no civilian injuries.



The church **did not have** a sprinkler system.

The structure sustained smoke, fire and water damage. Total damage is estimated at \$150,000 building and \$75,000 contents. The origin and cause of the fire was determined to be accidental; an incense left burning and unattended ignited combustible materials in the storage room.

The Memphis **Fire** Department urges all citizens to maintain a working smoke alarm in their place of residence. Check smoke alarms once a month and change the battery when you change your clocks. City of Memphis residents may apply for a **free smoke alarm** by completing an application on-line: <https://www.memphistn.gov/government/fire-department/free-smoke-alarm-application/> or by contacting the Fire Museum of Memphis at (901) 636-5650. Always have a plan of escape in case there is a fire. Also remember that 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. For all other **FIRE/EMS NON-EMERGENCY** issues please dial (901) 458-8281.

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